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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PSC ENCOURAGES TELEPHONE COMPETITION
IN SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA WITH TIME WARNER VOTE**

LINCOLN – Nebraska Public Service Commissioner Rod Johnson of Sutton said local service telephone competition has been enhanced in six of his Fourth District communities as a result of a November 23 vote to authorize Time Warner Cable to provide competitive telecommunication services in cities where it is the cable television franchise operator.

The Commission approved Time Warner's application to provide telecommunication services in Columbus, Crete, David City, Fairbury, and York in Commissioner Johnson's Fourth District, as well as Lincoln, Auburn, Denton, Falls City, Humboldt, Nebraska City, Pawnee City, Table Rock, Tecumseh and Fremont. All municipalities of the Fourth District, except for Columbus, have Alltel as the incumbent local exchange carrier. Columbus is served by Frontier Communications.

Johnson said the decision makes it possible for Time Warner to be a competitor to the incumbent telephone company in providing local telephone service.

In addition to local and long distance telephone service, Time Warner said its telephone customers will be able to have local calling with other customers on existing local exchange networks such as Alltel and Frontier. Features and services such as caller ID, call waiting, local number portability, operator services, information assistance, 911 services, and unlimited long distance calling to the United States and Canada, will be provided by Time Warner.

"While Omaha and other parts of the nation have a choice for local telephone service," Johnson said, "this will be the first step into this arena in the Fourth District, which I represent. Having a choice of telephone providers should promote better service and have a positive affect on pricing for residential customers. This is what Congress envisioned by enacting the Telecommunications Act of 1996."

Time Warner's telephone plan initially will be tied to locations where its cable television programming is available. In its application, Time Warner said the company would not immediately extend its telephone offering beyond the locations where the company has cable for television programming.

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